

CITY OF JERSEY CITY



JERRAMIAH T. HEALY
MAYOR

CITY HALL
JERSEY CITY, NJ 07302
TEL:(201) 547-5200
FAX:(201) 547-4288

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 31, 2011

Contact: Jennifer Morrill
Press Secretary
201-547-4836
201-376-0699

Mayor Healy Files 28-Page Response to FERC's Draft Environmental Impact Statement Cites Lack of Independent Analysis & Calls Process 'Arbitrary & Capricious' Mayor Vows to Continue Opposition and File Suit if Necessary

JERSEY CITY – Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy announced today that on behalf of the City, his office has filed a **28-page response** to the **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's** Draft Environmental Impact Statement released last month.

“The Draft Environmental Impact Statement released by FERC was not only arbitrary and capricious, but it also lacked any independent analysis or verification,” said **Mayor Healy**. “The majority of their report was based on either outdated information or representations made by Spectra, the applicant.”

Much of the data in the DEIS did not take into account the City's concerns and valid environmental issues, such as what would be the result of digging up areas of the City known for chromium contamination? What would be the impact of this pipeline on the residential areas, schools, hospitals, parks, ball fields, and sites for future development?

“Nowhere in their 1,000-page DEIS did we find an adequate response to the previous and extensive filings we have submitted to FERC on this matter,” said **Mayor Healy**. “Since Jersey City would bear the majority of the risk and receive none of the benefit, we feel that the least FERC can do is go back to the drawing board and really address the issues raised by our team and the hundreds of residents and business owners in Jersey City who spoke out against this pipeline.”

Mayor Healy cited the ongoing efforts of the City's internal team, who have spent hundreds of hours reading through filings, pouring over maps and resource reports and interpreting the dense filings of Spectra and FERC.

“I credit the outstanding work by our team, which has done a Herculean effort in what we have called a ‘David and Goliath’ type battle,” said **Mayor Healy**. “While we don't have the billions of dollars that Spectra does, we do have determination. The representatives of this team, including from the Mayor's Office, the Office of Emergency Management, the Division of City Planning, the Law Department, the Division of Engineering, the Jersey City Redevelopment Agency, the Jersey City Municipal Utilities Authority, have really put in the extra effort on this project.”

(more)

(2)

“This core group has met twice a month for the past two years and will continue to meet as we move forward with our opposition to this natural gas pipeline,” **Mayor Healy** added.

In addition to the internal City team working on the Spectra Opposition, representatives of the Jersey City Housing Authority, the Jersey City Economic Development Corporation, the Police Department and the Fire Department, as well as several members of the City Council and state elected officials spoke out at the Oct. 19th meeting held by FERC on the pipeline at Ferris High School.

The Mayor filed for Intervenor Status at the first possible date and in the event that FERC issues Spectra a certificate for this pipeline, Mayor Healy has directed the City to utilize all resources available and is prepared to file suit to overturn such a decision.

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.///